

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8803
INFO ALL SEABED TREATY REVIEW POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, JUNE 20
THROUGH JULY 1, 1977: SUMMARY AND WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY: SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE
WAS HARMONIOUS AND LARGEMLY UNEVENTFUL, WITH FINAL DECLARATION
ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. GREEK-TURKISH TENSION RELATED TO
TREATY'S IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMILITARIZED AEGEAN ISLANDS WAS
PAPERED OVER. JAPAN ACCEPTED HIGHLY DILUTED VERSION OF ITS
IDEAS ON A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM RELATING TO VERIFICATION.
LACKING ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT, INDIA FAILED TO OBTAIN
REVCON ENDORSEMENT OF ITS VIEW THAT VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES
WITHIN 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE REQUIRE PRIOR
APPROVAL OF COASTAL STATE. PROPONENTS OF A THOROUGH STUDY
OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER
SEABEDS ARMS LIMITATIONS OBTAINED LOW-KEY MENTIONS IN FINAL
DECLARATIONS WHICH REFERRED ISSUES TO CCD. REVCON ARRIVED
AT COMPROMISE FORMULATION REGARDING CONVENING OF NEXT
REVCON. THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE SOVIET DEL EXPRESSED VIEW
THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER MEASURES ARE DESIRABLE, BUT
ADVANCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. END

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SUMMARY

2. FINAL DECLARATION OF SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW
CONFERENCE MASKED GREEK-TURKISH TENSION OVER THE TREATY'S
HYPOTHETICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR AEGEAN ISLANDS DEMILITARIZATION
PURSUANT TO OTHER AGREEMENTS. DELS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WERE
SATISFIED WITH FOLLOWING SENTENCE, INCLUDED IN COMMENTARY

ON ARTICLE IV OF TREATY. QUOTE THE CONFERENCE ALSO NOTED THAT OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ARISING FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CONTINUE TO APPLY. UNQUOTE.

3. IN REGARD TO VERIFICATION, JAPANESE DELADVANCED TWO PROPOSALS: (A) CREATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MECHANISM, PATTERNED AFTER PARALLEL PROVISIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION; (B) INTERPRET " APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS" TO INCLUDE THE GOOD OFFICES AND ASSISTANCE OF THE UNSYG. SECOND PROPOSAL WAS COMPLETELY STONEWALLED BY SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DELS. FIRST PROPOSAL, ALSO OPPOSED BY SOVIETS, LED ONLY TO INCLUSION IN FINAL DECLARATION OF STATEMENT THAT THE TREATY'S CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION PROVISIONS QUOTE INCLUDE THE RIGHT OF INTERESTED STATES PARTIES TO AGREE TO RESORT TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES, SUCH AS AD HOC CONSULTATIVE GROUPS OF EXPERTS AND OTHER PROCEDURES. UNQUOTE.

4. INDIA ASSERTED THAT CONDUCTING VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO THE TREATY WITHIN THE 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE CLAIMED BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WOULD REQUIRE THE COASTAL STATE'S PRIOR PERMISSION. ONLY GHANA INDICATED RECEPTEIVENESS TO THIS VIEW, WHICH WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS, THE UK, THE US, AND THE USSR. IN THIS REGARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FINAL DECLARATION ONLY STATED THAT QUOTE THE CONFERENCE REAFFIRMS THAT STATES PARTIES SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS UNDER ARTICLE III WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES AS RECOGNIZED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. UNQUOTE.

5. POTENTIALLY MOST TROUBLESOME ISSUES WERE ARTICLE V'S PROVISION BY WHICH PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH CONCERNING FURTHER MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED, AND ARTICLE VII'S REQUIREMENT FOR THE REVIEW PROCESS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY RELEVANT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (NOTABLY SWEDEN, ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA) CRITICIZED THE LACK OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE REVCON ON TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THIS LED TO THE FINAL DECLARATION REQUEST TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) TO CONSIDER AN ADHOC GROUP OF EXPERTS TO STUDY THE SUBJECT. THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES JOINED SWEDEN, ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER NONALIGNED COUNTRIES IN CALLING FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WERE ADVANCED AND THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE POINT OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT OTHER DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY OR PLANNED HAVE PRIORITY.

THE RESULT WAS A REQUEST THAT THE CCD QUOTE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSALS MADE DURING THIS CONFERENCE AND ANY RELEVANT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PROCEED PROMPTLY WITH CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED, THE OCEAN FLOOR AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF.IUNQUOTE.

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6. ON QUESTION OF CONVENING NEXT REVCON, THE CONFERENCE SETTLED ON 1982 AS THE PROVISIONAL DATE FOR IT, BUT AGREED IT COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL 1984 IF A MAJORITY OF STATES PARTIES SO WISH. THIS REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE BETWEEN CALLS FOR 1982 AS A FIRM DATE (SWEDEN, ROMANIA, NON-ALIGNED) AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FLEXIBILITY (FRG AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES).

7. US, UK, AND USSR DELEGATES MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT THROUGHOUT REVCON, ALL AGREED THAT NO AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATY ARE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE. SOVIET DELEGATE MAINTAINED POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER SEABEDS ARMS LIMITATION MEASURES, BUT ADVANCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

8. COMMENT: IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SWEDEN PLANS TO PURSUE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT GROUP IN THE CCD TO CONSIDER RELEVANT SEABED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. THUS, THE US CCD DELEGATION WILL MOST LIKELY FIND IT NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE AT SOME POINT DURING THE UPCOMING SESSION. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS (GENEVA 5371), THAT THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC INITIATIVE

REGARDING FURTHER SEABED MEASURES TO PUT FORWARD AT THE SUMMER SESSION OF THE CCD, AND HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONSULT WITH US BEFORE PROPOSING SUCH MEASURES. IT DOES SEEM LIKELY THAT SOME STATE, PERHAPS SWEDEN, ROMANIA OR YUGOSLAVIA, WILL PUT FORWARD A RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA THIS FALL CALLING FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON SEABEDS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE MAY COME FROM THE USSR. END COMMENTSORENSEN

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